



**OFFICE OF THE LT. GOVERNOR  
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**Farmers in All 92 Counties Now Qualify for Assistance**

As part of the state's ongoing response to the latest drought conditions, Lt. Governor Becky Skillman announced today that all of Indiana's 92 counties have been declared primary or contiguous natural disaster areas by the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

Hoosier farmers in the 78 primary and 14 contiguous counties are now eligible for the same federal programs through USDA's Farm Service Agency.

"Though we are seeing some positive changes recently in our weather pattern, there's no question that much of the damage has already been done," Lt. Governor Becky Skillman said. "Only time will tell, as we get closer to harvest, the exact impact on our agriculture community and beyond. In the meantime, we continue to help farmers to put them in the best position for next season."

Qualified farmers in each of the designated counties can apply for low-interest emergency loans through USDA's Farm Service Agency. The USDA has also improved flexibility in the Conservation Reserve Program, making more livestock producers and landowners eligible for emergency haying and grazing.

Farmers in Indiana are experiencing the worst drought since 1988. Nearly three-fourths, 71 percent, of the state's corn crop and 50 percent of soybeans were in poor to very poor condition. USDA estimates Indiana's 2012 corn crop will yield nearly 38 percent below trend yields.

Indiana has a comprehensive website dedicated to the latest developments on the 2012 drought. Visit [www.in.gov/drought](http://www.in.gov/drought) for more information on disaster declarations, assistance programs and additional resources for producers.

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*Lt. Governor Becky Skillman oversees the Office of Community and Rural Affairs, the Indiana Housing and Community Development Authority, the Office of Energy Development, the Office of Tourism Development, and the State Department of Agriculture.*

*To receive email updates from Lt. Governor Skillman, sign up at [www.in.gov/lg/2941.htm](http://www.in.gov/lg/2941.htm).*